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WORLD REACTION TO EAST GERMAN RIOTS

SOVIET BLOC

The East German press and radio have taken the initiative for the Orbit in giving the Communist line on the riots in East Germany. The demonstrations are blamed on "provocateurs," "fascist agents of foreign powers," and "other reactionary elements" who seized upon the issue of norm increases as an excuse for a "D-Day" against East Berlin.

A heavy stream of abuse has accused these elements of sending large numbers of agents and "hired rabble" from West to East Berlin to turn orderly demonstrations into riots. One broadcast specifically accuses US officers in full uniform of directing the demonstrations in East Berlin, aided by radio vans giving instructions and American planes dropping leaflets. Western intelligence agencies and the Adenauer and Reuter governments are accused of taking this opportunity to implement a plan drawn up long in advance.

The Communists admit that "provocateurs" persuaded some workers - and in places a considerable number - to stop work and join demonstrations in East Berlin and many towns of East Germany. They consider it "humiliating" that any workers should have been so deceived and that the Soviet troops had to be called in to restore order. Now the workers are claimed to be unanimous in denunciation of the "fascist agents" who exploited their just claims. The party is blamed, however, for its previous deafness to the just demands of the people, and for permitting the people to become so dissatisfied that they could be led to riot.

The East German reforms are said to have caused Western fear of the unification which might follow, and this attempt to incite riots was designed to discredit the East German policy in an attempt to salvage the bankrupt Adenauer "war policy" and to prevent a peaceful solution of the German question. Therefore, the Communists claim the real issues were "neither norms, nor free elections, nor any kind of freedom." The West is charged with kindling a fire capable of being fanned into a world conflagration.

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The West's alleged attempts to prevent peaceful unity in Germany are also tied in with its Korean policy and its opposition to great power understanding. The statement by President Grotewohl which set the tone of the propaganda line stated that the riots would make the establishment of German unity more difficult.

Moscow followed the lead of East Germany in reporting the riots, but has limited its comments to short despatches without independent speculation. On 16 June TASS headlined the riots as the "Failure of Foreign Hirelings in Berlin," and stated that the issue of norm increases was used as a pretext for the disturbances by provocateurs from West Berlin. Grotewohl's message blaming foreign agents was repeated in full. Moscow press and radio had failed through 19 June to give the rioting full treatment, but continued to reflect the East German line without individual comment.

The Soviet radio in Vienna, after having first denied the rumors of Berlin riots, later picked up the East German line on "fascist bandits" who were trying to divide the German workers and prevent German unification. It attacked the Austrian Socialists' speeches about solidarity with the German workers, saying that they should have only contempt for the inciters of riots and that their solidarity should be with the forces working for a united, peaceful, democratic Germany.

Except in Rumania and Albania, Satellite radios recognized that the existence of the East Berlin riots could not be concealed, and reported to their people the Communist version of the disorders. Satellite reports have followed the line of the East German pronouncements on the riots and credited their instigation to "agents of foreign powers, fascists, and other reactionary elements." No popular reaction to the East Berlin riots has been received from any Satellite.

WESTERN EUROPE

Western Europe's reactions to the Berlin riots were front paged throughout the area. The West German press almost universally seized upon the incidents to demand that Germany be unified on the basis of the Bundestag resolution of last week calling for free elections for an all-German government. Most West German observers assert, however, that the riots demonstrate that the Eastern regime is unfit to be an equal partner in any unification negotiations, and that the Adenauer government's prestige has been strengthened.

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Social Democratic Party chairman Ollenhauer has suggested that the three Western powers now approach the Soviet to "normalize life in East Germany," and a rightist leader has demanded the holding of free East German elections as a prelude to moves toward unity. Chancellor Adenauer, on the other hand, has restricted himself to claiming new evidence of the true loyalties of East Germans to the West, and offering them encouragement while advising restraint to avoid more bloodshed.

Elsewhere in Western Europe, the possibility that the Soviets purposely provoked the riots was generally dismissed. Two Danish papers, however, state that the Communists planned them in connection with an over-all Soviet tactical change, but that they got out of hand. The possibility that the clashes mark the beginning of some serious cracks in the Orbit is noted in the Italian press, particularly in the pro-government Il Messagero.

In Britain the influential independent Manchester Guardian advises that if the riots signal the "beginning of the break-up in rigid alignment of the cold war," more serious consequences are to be anticipated in the Soviet Orbit than in the West. The "blow to Soviet prestige" is emphasized in the Swedish and British press.

In France, Italy, and Sweden sections of the press used the riots to point out the lesson of the rule of fear on which the East German Communist regime is based. The possibility that the disturbances mark the break between the working class and the Communist dictatorship was noted in Italy.

As to the early consequences, a particularly tough Soviet reaction is expected; several London papers suggest that the atmosphere will not be favorable to any big power talks on German questions.

NEAR EAST AND AFRICA

No comment received to date.

FAR EAST

No comment received to date.